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Message Text

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USMISSION BERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001446

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, GE, WB
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ALLIED BERLIN PERSONNEL IN GDR

REF: BONN 15897

1. USBER IS AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED TRI-PARTITE STUDY OF ACTUAL TRAVEL PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES OF ALLIED MISSIONS IN WEST BERLIN AND FRENCH AND BRITISH EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN CITED REFTEL.

2. WE AGREE THAT FINDINGS OF BERLIN STUDY SHOULD THEN BE TURNED OVER TO BONN GROUP FOR FURTHER REVIEW. BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL JURISDICTIONAL DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN SITUATION WHERE BONN GROUP OR BERLIN MISSIONS SEEK TO SET OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ALLIED EMBASSIES IN GDR, WE BELIEVE IT VITAL THAT CAPITALS RETAIN DECISIVE ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING
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PROCESS. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT, WHILE FRG

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IS KEPT FULLY INFORMED, RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAVEL GUIDE-
LINES RESTS SOLELY WITH THREE POWERS.

3. WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND ON SPECIFICS OF ALLIED TRAVEL.
WHAT FOLLOWS ARE A FEW GENERAL PRINCIPLES, SOME OF WHICH
HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET FORTH IN PREVIOUS CABLES, WHICH
WE WOULD ASK ADDRESSEES TO BE GUIDED BY IN FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS:

A. OVERALL ALLIED AIM SHOULD BE MAXIMUM TRAVEL

FLEXIBILITY FOR MISSION AND ALLIED EMBASSY PERSONNEL,
CONSISTENT WITH PRESERVING OUR LEGAL POSITION ON
BERLIN. SELF-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE MINIMIZED.

B. TO AVOID EROSION OF OUR BERLIN LEGAL POSITION,
ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR ALLIED PERSONNEL
TRAVELING TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN ON OFFICIAL DUTY,
EITHER VIA THE AUTOBAHN OR BY MILITARY TRAIN, MUST
REMAIN UNCHANGED.

C. ALLIES SHOULD NOT MIX PRACTICES ON ACCESS TO WEST
BERLIN, WHERE SOVIETS ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH
PROCESSING, WITH EAST BERLIN EMBASSY OR OTHER TRAVEL
PRACTICES, WHERE DEALINGS WITH GDR OFFICIALS WILL
BE UNAVOIDABLE.

D. ALLIED PERSONNEL WHILE IN POSSESSION OF A
PASSPORT SHOWING ACCREDITATION TO THE GDR SHOULD NOT
TRAVEL ON ACCESS ROUTES OR ON MILITARY TRAINS UNDER
FLAG ORDERS ATTESTING THAT THEIR TRAVEL IS IN
CONNECTION WITH OCCUPATION FORCES. IN THIS CONNECTION,
WE OPPOSE FRENCH EFFORTS TO GRANT USE OF ALLIED
MILITARY TRAINS TO THEIR OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE
GDR.

E. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO FACILITATE TRAVEL
OF ALLIED PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE GDR BOTH IN
ARRIVING AT POST IN EAST BERLIN (INCLUDING LANDING
IN WEST BERLIN) AND IN TRAVELING FROM EAST BERLIN
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OR GDR TO THE FRG.

F. ONCE AN EMBASSY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN EAST
BERLIN, OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY WEST BERLIN MISSION
PERSONNEL WITHIN THE GDR WOULD NO LONGER BE APPRO-
PRIATE.

G. WE FAVOR A LIBERALIZED TRAVEL POLICY FOR USBER

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PERSONNEL FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES IN AND THROUGH
THE GDR. ALLIED MISSION PERSONNEL SHOULD NOT,
HOWEVER, ENTER OR EXIT THE GDR FROM OR TO THE FRG
AT ANY POINTS OUTSIDE THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN ACCESS
ROUTES, SINCE USE OF OTHER EXIT OR ENTRY POINTS
TO FRG COULD ENCOURAGE THE GDR AND SOVIETS TO CONSIDER
CLOSING THE SPECIAL ACCESS ROUTES. FOR THE SAME
REASON THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN SHOULD NOT BE
USED FOR TRAVEL TO POINTS WITHIN GDR. AS PRACTICAL
MATTER, WE DOUBT THAT GDR WILL PERMIT ALLIED MILITARY
PERSONNEL STATIONED IN BERLIN TO UNDERTAKE OFF-DUTY
TRAVEL IN GDR, AND WE WOULD QUESTION, IN ANY CASE,
WHETHER SUCH UNRESTRICTED TRAVEL IS DESIRABLE
FOR SECURITY REASONS. RUSH

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